

BUILDING SIGHT WORDS OR TEACHING THE KIDS WHAT THE WORDS LOOK LIKE

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VISION RELATED LEARNING PROBLEMS

- Functional visual problems are common among children who have difficulty learning
- 1) Sherman - 96% of learning disabilities had oculomotor dysfunction
- 2) Hoffman - 95% of learning problems had oculomotor dysfunction
- 3) Goddard
 - 92% of children diagnosed with dyslexia had oculomotor dysfunction
 - 59% had convergence insufficiency
 - 98% had visual-motor dysfunction

VISION RELATED LEARNING PROBLEMS

- Raghuram - Dyslexia vs normal readers:
 - accommodative disorder 55% vs 9% $p < 0.001$
 - oculomotor dysfunction 62% vs 15% $p < 0.001$
 - binocular dysfunction 34% vs 15% $p = 0.08$
- Overall 1 or more $p < 0.001$

VISION RELATED LEARNING PROBLEMS

- Rosner & Rosner - Looked at correlation of refraction to academic performance
 - statistically significant lower scores on Iowa Test of Basic Skills among hyperopes $> +1.25D$

VISION RELATED LEARNING PROBLEMS

- Elliot Forrest – Visual Imagery – An Optometric Approach

“Inefficient eye movement ability results in errors, loss of place, omissions, and substitutions when reading”

THE READING PROCESS – TRADITIONAL VIEW

- Decoding and semantics – and nothing more??
 - Standard approach in schools
- Does it matter how you think about reading?
 - It guides what questions you ask, what tests you perform, what lenses you Rx, and how you do VT

THE READING PROCESS – OPTOMETRIC VIEW

- Where is the word? (tracking)
- Eyes point to the word (binocularity)
- Eyes focus on the word (accommodation)
- How much phonics so far???

THE READING PROCESS – OPTOMETRIC VIEW

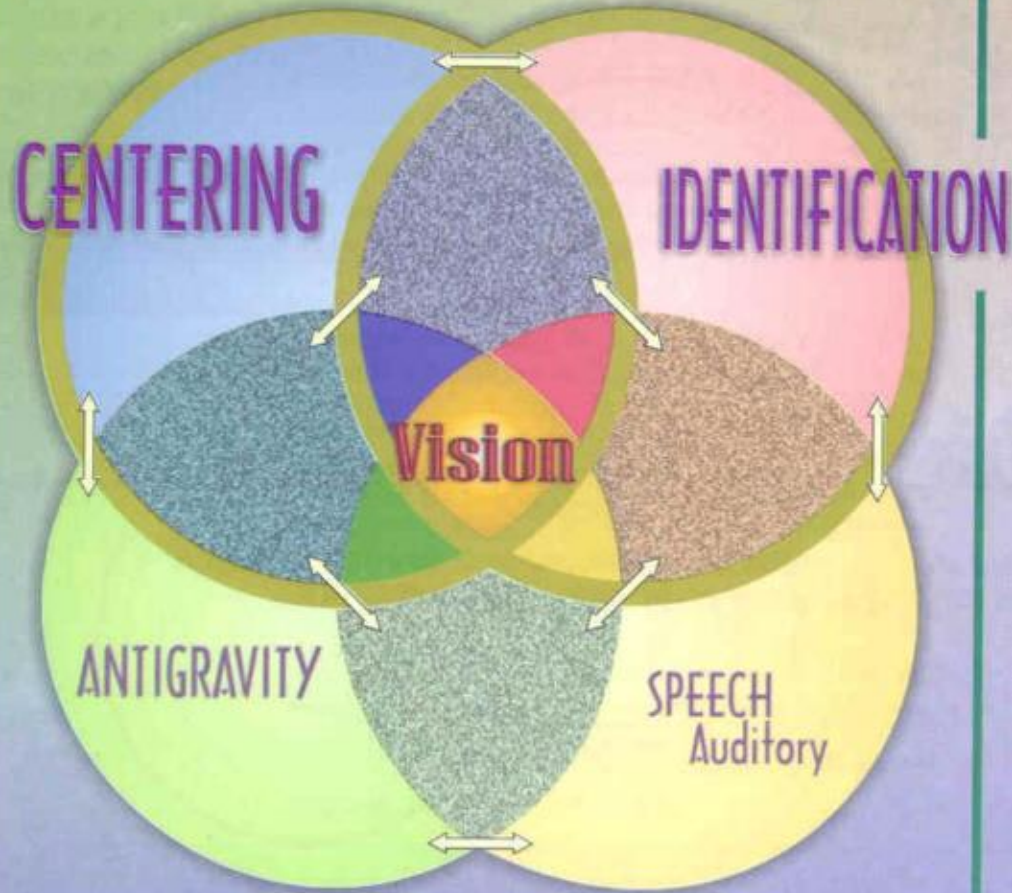
- What is the word? (decoding)
- What does it mean? (semantics)
- Even here, there is a lot of visual processing!

OPTOMETRIC APPROACH TO CHILDREN WITH READING PROBLEMS

- Evaluate visual skills
- Rx appropriate lens
- Vision therapy

Skeffington

Four Circles of Vision



THE FOUNDATION OF GOOD VT

- Where am I
- Where is it
- What is it
- What can I tell you about it

VISION THERAPY FOR VISION RELATED LEARNING PROBLEMS

- OEP clinical curriculum of VT (VT2)
 - Develops visual skill
 - Helps to remediate reversals
 - Techniques for spelling remediation
 - Tach work
 - Building sight words (not part of the curriculum)

BUILDING SIGHT WORDS

- We are NOT teaching reading!!
- We are teaching the visual skills necessary for reading!

BUILDING SIGHT WORDS

- Steve Ingersoll:
 - What's the problem for kids who struggle with reading?

BUILDING SIGHT WORDS

- Elliot Forest found that some kids could learn to become proficient readers and yet still have phonological processing problems
- How?
 - By developing a superior visual memory for words

BUILDING SIGHT WORDS

- Technique
 - You read the passage ahead of time
 - Select words you believe the child may struggle with
 - Present the words visually
 - Discuss meaning (build vocabulary)
 - Continue to present the words randomly till they can rapidly and automatically say what the words are
 - Have them read the passage aloud

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